

EVALUATION OF POPLAR TENT MAKER, ICHTHYURA INCLUSA
HUBNER POPULATIONS ON SELECTED PLANTATIONS ON THE
LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA

by

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INTRODUCTION

Poplar tent maker, Ichthyura inclusa Hubner populations became epidemic in poplar plantations on the lower Mississippi Delta during 1977-78 (Stein and Oliveria 1979). Since that time populations have declined.

During late June and early July, an evaluation was conducted by Neil Overgaard of the Alexandria FPM Field Office of eight plantations in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana to determine the current status of poplar tent maker populations.

Those assisting in the survey were Lonnie Newsome and Wayne McDuff of the Stoneville Hardwood Project, Southern Forest Experiment Station; William Lambert of the Mississippi Forestry Commission; Mark Munroe of the Anderson Tulley Corporation; Wirt Bond of Greif Bros. Corporation; and Butch Labauve of Transmatch Corporation.

METHODS

Eight cottonwood plantations were examined for poplar tent maker populations on the lower Mississippi Delta (Fig. 1). A sample of from 5 to 10 branches in each plantation was taken by pruning or shooting branches from trees. Each branch (approximately 5 ft. long) was sampled from an individual tree and examined for poplar tent maker larvae and/or eggs.

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The following criteria developed by Forrest Oliveria (personal communication) were to be used to determine potential defoliation:

| No. of larvae/limb | Expected % defoliation |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| <20 | 0 - 39 |
| 20 - 40 | 40 - 59 |
| 41 - 50 | 60 - 79 |
| >50 | 80 - 100 |

RESULTS

No poplar tent maker eggs or larvae were found on branches sampled (Table 1). Several nests were found on stump sprouts in the Greif Bros. plantation south of Vicksburg and one larva was found in a young Crown Zellerbach plantation at Fitler, MS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Poplar tent maker populations are currently at a very low level on the lower Mississippi Delta; therefore, no further evaluation is recommended for this year.

A ground evaluation should be conducted during late June and early July, 1983.

TABLE 1. Plantations sampled for poplar tent maker populations on the lower Mississippi Delta,
June - July, 1982.

| PLANTATION | AGE | LOCATION | DATE | NUMBER OF BRANCHES ^{1/} | NUMBER OF PTM LARVAE OR EGGS |
|------------------|--------|--|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Transmatch | 10 yrs | Profit Island, LA | 6/23/82 | 10 | 0 |
| U.S. Gypsun | 10 yrs | Catfish Point, MS | 6/28/82 | 8 | 0 |
| U.S. Gypsun | 15 yrs | Arkansas City, AR | 6/29/82 | 10 | 0 |
| Anderson Tulley | 7 yrs | Hookers Ridge South of Eagle Lake Road | 6/30/82 | 8 | 0 |
| Anderson Tulley | 10 yrs | North of Eagle Lake Road | 6/30/82 | 8 | 0 |
| Anderson Tulley | 10 yrs | South of Vicksburg | 6/30/82 | 6 | 0 |
| Crown Zellerbach | 5 yrs | Fitler, MS | 7/ 1/82 | 10 | 0 |
| Greif Bros. | 15 yrs | South of Vicksburg | 7/ 2/82 | 5 | 0 |

^{1/} Each branch was removed from a single tree.

REFERENCES

Stein, C.R. and F.L. Oliveria
1979. Status of poplar tent maker in the lower Mississippi River
Delta. Southeastern Area, S&PF, USDA Forest Service, Alexandria
Field Office Report No. 79-2-7.